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What is claimed is:

1. A video telecommunication system comprising:
 - a video transmission apparatus provided with a camera,
 - 5 a video reception apparatus provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera,
 - a network over which the video transmission apparatus and the video reception apparatus are connected, and
 - 10 a video information describing unit for sending a switch command for the camera to the video transmission apparatus, simultaneously sending character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and making the monitor display the video information and the character information.
2. A video telecommunication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said video information describing unit sends said switch command via the network to the video transmission apparatus and sends the character information via a control line to the video reception apparatus.
- 20 3. A video telecommunication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the video information describing unit sends both the switch command and the character information via the network to the video transmission apparatus which extracts the character information therefrom and multiplexes the extracted character information and the video information sends the same to the video reception apparatus.
- 25 4. A video transmission apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:
 - 30 a character information combining unit for

receiving both a switch command and character information from a video information describing unit which sends the switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information, and for combining the character information extracted from there with the video information of the camera and outputting the result to the monitor side.

5 5. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said character information combining unit inserts the combined video information and character information together in a data frame and outputs the result to the monitor side.

15 6. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the data frame is a data frame formed based on the MPEG and holds the video information and character information in a user data region of the data frame.

20 7. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the data frame is a data frame formed based on the MPEG and holds the character information in a private data region in the data frame.

25 8. A video transmission apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:

30 a video/character information multiplexing unit for receiving a switch command and its character information from a video information describing unit which sends the switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information, and for

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multiplexing the character information extracted from there with the video information of the camera and outputting the result to the monitor side and

5 a character information setting unit for inputting the character information to the character/video multiplexing unit in synchronization so that the switched video information and character information come together.

10 9. A video transmission apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:

15 a character information transmitter unit for receiving through a video path and switch control path on the network a switch command and character information from a video information describing unit which sends the switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends character information describing the
20 video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information, and for outputting the character information extracted from the switch control path, separate from the video information
25 of the camera, through the switch control path, to the monitor side.

30 10. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the character information received from the video information describing unit to character information unique to the camera side.

35 11. A video transmission apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:

a display combining unit for receiving a

switch command and character information from a video
information describing unit which sends the switch
command for the camera, simultaneously sends character
information describing the video information of the
5 camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes
the monitor display the video information and the
character information, and for combining the character
information extracted from there with the video
information of the camera by a signal format able to be
10 displayed as it is on the monitor.

12. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in
claim 11, wherein the display combining unit is comprised
of a superimpose generator.

13. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in
15 claim 4, further comprising a condition notifying unit
for notifying the monitor side of condition information
expressing the working condition of the camera.

14. A video transmission apparatus as set forth in
claim 13, wherein the information from the condition
20 notifying unit is input to the character information
combining unit.

15. A video reception apparatus used in a video
telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor
for receiving and displaying video information sent from
the camera, and a network connecting the camera and
25 monitor, comprising:

a decoding unit for converting video
information sent from the camera to analog video
information,

30 a character information converting unit
for receiving a switch command from a video information
describing unit which sends the switch command for the
camera, simultaneously sends character information
describing the video information of the camera in
35 accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor
display the video information and the character
information, and for converting a digital code forming

the character information to analog character information, and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information converting unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

16. A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the display combining unit is comprised of a superimpose generator.

17. A video reception apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:

a character information separating unit for receiving once at the camera side character information from a video information describing unit which sends a switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information, and for receiving the character information together with the video information of the camera side, then separating it and

a decoding unit for converting the received video information to analog video information and

combining the character information from the character information separating unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

18. A video reception apparatus used in a video telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from the camera, and a network connecting the camera and monitor, comprising:

5 a character/video separating unit for
receiving once at the camera side character information
from a video information describing unit which sends a
switch command for the camera, simultaneously sends
character information describing the video information of
the camera in accordance with the switch command, and
makes the monitor display the video information and the
character information, and for receiving the video
information and character information from the camera
10 side, then separating the character information,

a decoding unit for converting video
information from the character/video separating unit to
analog video information, and

15 a display combining unit for combining the
character information from the character/video separating
unit with the video information from the decoding unit
and outputting the result to the monitor.

20 19. A video reception apparatus as set forth in
claim 18, wherein the display combining unit is comprised
of a superimpose generator.

25 20. A video reception apparatus used in a video
telecommunication system comprising a camera, a monitor
for receiving and displaying video information sent from
the camera, and a network connecting the camera and
monitor, comprising:

30 a character information receiver unit for
receiving, through a switch control path on the network,
character information from a video information describing
unit which sends a switch command for the camera,
simultaneously sends character information describing the
video information of the camera in accordance with the
switch command, and makes the monitor display the video
information and the character information,

35 a decoding unit for converting the video
information received through the video path on the
network to analog video information, and

a display combining unit for combining the

character information from the character information receiver unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

5 21. A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 17, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the received character information to character information unique to the monitor side.

10 22. A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the received character information to character information unique to the monitor side.